

## Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 SCCT-01 /031 W

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R 141614Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1109

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMCONSUL BELFAST

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 07294

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PINT, PDEV, UK(NI)

SUBJECT: NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE VIEWS

REF: BELFAST 172

1. IN RECENT MEETING WITH EMBOFF, NI UNDERSECRETARY DENIS TREVELYAN HAD LITTLE TO ADD TO WHAT HAS ALREADY BEEN REPORTED ON NI ELECTION OUTCOME AND PROSPECTS FOR CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION. WHILE NIO WAS DISAPPOINTED AT LOYALIST (UUUC) ELECTORAL STRENGTH, OFFICIALS ARE STILL GUARDEDLY OPTIMISTIC THAT CONVENTION WILL PRODUCE AT LEAST LIMITED AREAS OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CONTENTENDING FACTIONS. TREVELYAN ALSO EXPRESSED VIEW THAT CONVENTION WOULD NOT REALLY GET DOWN TO BUSINESS UNTIL AFTER TRADITIONAL NI HOLIDAYS WHICH BEGIN IN JULY. PRELIMINARY COMMITTEE WORK, HE THOUGHT, WOULD OCCUPY THEIR TIME THROUGH JUNE.

2. TREVELYAN SUGGESTED THAT RECENT PROVISIONAL IRA SLAYING OF ROYAL ULSTER CONSTABLE (RUC) IN LONDONDERRY (REF-TEL) HAD BEEN APPROVED BY IRA LEADERSHIP AND WAS NOT ACTION OF MILITANT RUMP GROUP. AS A RESULT, THE ALREADY SLOW RELEASE RATE FOR DETAINED IRA MEMBERS WILL BE SLOWED SLIGHTLY AND THERE WILL BE NO RPT NO RELEASE OF DETAINEES FROM LONDONDERRY AREA FOR A FEW WEEKS. SECRETARY REES, CONFIDENTIAL

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HE SAID, WILL FOLLOW POLICY OF HOLDING UP RELEASES FROM

ANY AREA IN WHICH IRA CEASEFIRE IS VIOLATED. THIS POLICY  
WILL NOT BE ARTICULATED, BUT NIO EXPECTS IRA LEADERSHIP  
WILL GET THE MESSAGE.

3. REGARDING EC REFERENDUM, TREVELYAN SAID THERE ARE FEW  
INDICATIONS OF POPULAR INTEREST IN THE ISSUE. ACCORDING-  
LY, HE DOES NOT ANTICIPATE A HEAVY VOTER TURN-OUT, ESPE-  
CIALLY SINCE THE REFERENDUM COMES ONLY A MONTH AFTER THE  
CONVENTION ELECTION. HE BELIEVES, HOWEVER, THE ANTI-EC  
VOTE WILL PREVAIL IN N.I.

RICHARDSON

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## Message Attributes

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